



Flight Jacket

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Jan. 11, 2002

Seven Miramar Marines killed in downed KC-130

Flight Jacket Staff

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Seven Marines from Marine Aerial Refueler-Transport Squadron 352 KC-130 Marines were killed when a KC-130 crashed at 7:15 a.m. PST Wednesday in western Pakistan.

The Department of Defense identified the Marines as: command pilot, Capt. Matthew W. Bancroft, 29, of Redding; co-pilot, Capt. Daniel G. McCollum, 29, of Irmo, S.C.; flight engineer, Gunnery Sgt. Stephen L. Bryson, 36, of Montgomery, Ala.; loadmaster, Staff Sgt. Scott N. Germosen, 37, of Queens, N.Y.; flight mechanic, Sgt. Nathan P. Hays, 21, of Wilbur, Wash.; flight navigator, Lance Cpl. Bryan P. Bertrand, 23, of Coos Bay, Ore.; and radio operator, Sgt. Jeannette L. Winters, 25, of Gary, Ind.

"The Miramar community wishes to express its deepest sympathy and concerns for the families of the Marines involved in the incident," said Maj. T.V. Johnson, director, Miramar Public Affairs Office.

The flight originated from Jacobabad, Pakistan and its final destination was Shamsi.

Elements of the VMGR-352 "Raiders" are attached to Combined Task Force 58, in support of



This picture shows the view from the cockpit of a CH-53E Super Stallion during an aerial-refueling mission in September. The KC-130 Hercules pictured is from VMGR-352. Photo by Staff Sgt. Troy Ruby

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Marine musicians set tone for patriotic Rose Parade



Master Gunnery Sgt. Greg Simons, drum major, 3rd MAW Band, leads a Marine composite band during the annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena New Year's Day. Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

By Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

PASADENA—The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, teamed up with the three other Marine bands in California to add some red, white and dress blue to America's new year celebration at the 113th Tournament of Roses Parade here Jan. 1.

All four bands, the 3rd MAW Band, 1st Marine Division Band, Marine Corps Air Ground Center Band and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Band combined to form the 120-member West Coast Composite Marine Band. Playing the National Anthem, they led the parade five and a half miles down Colorado Boulevard in front of approximately 1 million spectators and a national television audience. The band was second only to the American flag. The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard out of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow carried the official colors, while 32 cadets from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., followed closely with a 30-by-50-foot American flag.

This year was Miramar's turn to play host band. Master Gunnery Sgt. Greg Simons, drum major, 3rd MAW Band, had the honor of leading the composite band.

"The Rose Parade is one of the most publicized parades there is," said Simons. "Bands, equestrian units and other entries wait years to be able to be a part of this parade. This parade is one of the biggest, if not the biggest parade there

is. The Marine musicians were first class and represented the Marine Corps in outstanding fashion. I was extremely proud to lead them."

Regis Philbin, TV personality and grand marshal for this year's parade, introduced the Marine musicians and dedicated the parade to America's military before the band played the national anthem.

"Today's parade pays tribute to the gallant men and women of our armed forces who secure our freedoms," said Philbin.

After the Marines began the festivities, Martina McBride, country music star, sang her rendition of "God Bless America" during which three F/A-18 Hornets, from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 242, and one B-2 Stealth Bomber buzzed overhead. The ground shook as the bomber made a second pass while the composite band started down Colorado Avenue.

An eerie silence shrouded the Marine band as it followed the rest of the parade route. An anxious crowd stood by restlessly until the Marines arrived, rose to their feet and stood in silence as they passed. The crowd screamed with delight as the first float of the parade, a 50-foot-tall "technobot" approached.

"Although I have been drum majoring for more than 10 years, this parade was a highlight," said Simons. "The crowd

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Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather forecasters



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Back in the saddle: 3rd MAW CG speaks to MAG-11



Major General Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3rd MAW, talks with Marines and Sailors of MAG-11 during the Group's 'Back in the Saddle' safety brief. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marines and Sailors with Marine Aircraft Group 11 packed into the Station Theater, filling the building to standing-room only capacity, Jan. 3.

Major Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general,

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, joined the Marines and Sailors for the MAG-11 "Back in the Saddle Safety Stand-down."

"2001 was a great year," he said. "Let's make 2002 a phenomenal year."

Coming off the Christmas and New Year's 96-hour holidays, MAG-11 Marines and Sailors hosted Al Haynes, a retired commercial airline pilot who averted near disaster as

the captain of a Boeing 727. Haynes started flying in 1952 as a pilot in the Marine Corps. After four years of service he left to become a flight engineer for United Airlines. In 1963 he was promoted to first officer, and in 1985 he became a captain, flying Boeing 727s and DC-10s.

Haynes departed Denver airport July 19, 1989, and shortly after takeoff the aircraft's tail-mounted engine suffered a catastrophic failure, severing the lines to all three hydraulic systems – an occurrence which engineers predicted never would occur. The engineers were so confident that all three hydraulic systems would never fail that they never created a procedure for the emergency.

Haynes and his crew struggled with the damages and the nearly out of control aircraft for 45 minutes before landing in Sioux City, Iowa.

After landing, the aircraft broke apart. However 184 of 294 passengers survived the impact. United Airlines credits the high survival rate of the passengers to Haynes' ability. Haynes is now considered a world-renowned expert of flight skills and volunteers his time to teach military aviators those skills.

Officer Mark Gregg, California Highway Patrol public affairs officer, was also on hand to give the Marines and Sailors a better understanding of the hazards of driving on the Southern California highway system.

Third MAW survived Christmas and New Year's holidays with only two traffic accidents and two recreational accidents.

Station Marines and Sailors made it back to work without any recorded incidents.

CHP bikers commemorate retirement of fellow officer

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Those traveling through the Station's East Gate Dec. 19 may have been taken back at the sight of dozens of California Highway Patrol officers and their motorcycles formed up in the center lane.

Twenty-four California Highway Patrol motorcycle officers rode onto the Air Station, formed up, then proceeded to the hangar housing Green Knights of Marine Fighter

Attack Squadron 121, but they weren't there to arrest anyone.

Accompanied also by a CHP patrol car, this was to be a morning that the Marines and police officers would remember for a long time – especially for CHP motorcycle field sergeant Doc Mehrtens.

The 54-year-old policeman was retiring after 30 years of service with the CHP, and his fellow officers thought they could give their comrade a great send-off by staging a photograph with two F/A-18 Hornets. With

a quick phone call to Maj. Thomas Innocenti III, Marine Aircraft Group 11 director of safety and standardization, coordination began.

"Actually Officer Mark Gregg contacted us and mentioned that a fellow officer was retiring," said Innocenti. "Officer Gregg speaks at our safety stand-downs and has done a lot for us. Not only is this a great gift for their fellow officer, but we felt it would also promote safety awareness for the command."

Innocenti noted that the officers who rode their patrol bikes to the flightline were from the local CHP office.

"If a Marine is driving in this area and is pulled over, it's probably by one of these officers here," said Innocenti.

The officers rode their motorcycles with style and precision, and formed two lines in front of two staged Hornets.

After a few quick snapshots, Mehrtens and a few of his fellow officers were given the chance to climb up and look inside the Marine Corps' most fierce fighter.

"This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity," said Mehrtens. "I've worked everything from the road to providing protection for individuals. Today I'm doing what I love most – riding with my guys."

Mehrtens is no stranger to the military – before becoming part of the CHP he retired as an Air Force senior master sergeant. He did two tours in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968, and earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star with valor and three Purple Hearts.



Lieutenant Col. David C. Myers, commanding officer, VMFA-121, stands with 24 California Highway Patrol officers. The officers were given the

opportunity to see two F/A-18 Hornets up close and personal as a gift to CHP motorcycle field sergeant Doc Mehrtens. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.



Flight Jacket

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USS Stennis flies World Trade Center Ensign

By Petty Officer 1st Class Laura Castro
and Petty Officer 2nd Class Erin Tholen

USS John C. Stennis, Public Affairs

IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM—The John C. Stennis Battle Group launched its first combat mission today in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, flying the United States Flag, once buried beneath the concrete and steel that entombed thousands of victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

During an early morning ceremony aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Signalman 3rd Class Ho'okahi Kaikaina hoisted the 12-by-18-foot flag discovered in the World Trade Center debris on Sept. 25 by New York City policeman and Naval Reservist Sgt. Karl Hagstrom and other officers who sent it the ship in late November.

"I was in awe the day that it came here. Then to be standing there actually holding the flag in my hands, raising it and watching our symbol of freedom fly high above the sea en route to bring the threat of terrorism to a close...it freezes you for a minute when you stand there and look at it," Kaikaina said.

Captain Jim McDonell, commanding officer, USS John C. Stennis, read from President George W. Bush's Oct. 7 speech, "...the only way to pursue peace is to pursue those who threaten it. We did not ask for this mission, but we will fulfill it..."

Rear Adm. Jim Zortman, commander, Carrier Group Seven continued "...today, those sacrifices are being made by members of our Armed Forces who now defend us so far from home,

and by their proud and worried families...we ask a lot of those who wear our uniform. We ask them to leave their loved ones, to travel great distances, to risk injury, even to be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifices of their lives. They are dedicated. They are honorable. They represent the best of our country, and we are grateful. To all the men and women in our military, every Sailor...every Marine, I say this: Your mission is defined. The objectives are clear. Your goal is just. You have my full confidence ..."

The flag has become a source of inspiration for many Sailors and Marines aboard who last week had the opportunity to be photographed with this unearthed national treasure.

"I think it's a symbol of pride," said Cpl. Keir Goetzelt, egress mechanic, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314. "I think it shows how everybody's come together.

"I only wish those terrorists could see the flag waving," added the Miramar Marine.

Kaikaina said it's only fitting that this American Flag, exhumed from the rubble of the World Trade Center to be flown in the very strikes against those responsible for the cowardly acts.

"I look at it as a chance to let the people of our great nation know that justice will be served and our freedom will be defended as the men and women of the John C. Stennis Battle Group take action against all involved and responsible for the attacks on our homeland," Kaikaina said.

The John C. Stennis Battle Group deployed Nov. 12, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Sailors 'close up' a National Ensign during a ceremony aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). The flag was found September 25 buried in the World Trade Center rubble. Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Craig McClure.

General Franks brings Holiday cheer onboard USS Stennis

By Petty Officer 1st Class Laura Castro

USS John C. Stennis, Public Affairs

IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM - The United States Central Command's Commander-in-Chief made a brief Christmas visit to USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) today to wish the Sailors and Marines aboard happy holidays and to express gratitude for their efforts supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Standing in front of the 12-by-18-foot American flag found in the rubble of the World Trade Center, Army General Tommy R. Franks talked to Sailors and Marines about the importance of their mission and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for their efforts.

"These colors don't run. If your kids and my grandbabies are going to have the chance to enjoy life and enjoy America, then we're

going to step up to it. And so from Americans everywhere, hundreds of millions of them, thanks for what you do," Franks said.

"I'm not sure that you know how special you are. I'm not sure that it won't be a while before you get home. Whether you're Navy, whether you're Marines, whether you're a Seal, whether you're flying these jets, whether you're maintaining them, ...the work that you do on this magnificent war machine is just absolutely out of sight," Franks added.

Franks said there was no place he'd rather be. "And you are over here, one half a world away from the things that are most dear and most important to you, Moms, dads, aunts, uncles, husbands, wives, children, friends...and so for all them and for all of my grandbabies, thanks a lot for doing what you're doing...for all of you who have made it possible to fill the Taliban's Christmas

stocking, thanks a lot. For all of you who have made it possible for millions of people in Afghanistan who have not known peace in decades, have made it possible for them to at least make a beginning, thanks," Franks said.

Franks said after meeting with the President in December, he was instructed to tell the troops "thanks a lot" and to give them a hug. So, Franks climbed down from the stage and made his way through the crowd of Sailors and Marines, personally thanking them for their hard work and dedication.

The crew said Frank's visit definitely made an impact, and they appreciated the visit.

"It was nice that he took time out to be here. He's a very busy man, but he came all the way out here to come see us. It shows that he cares about us. It definitely makes a difference," said Cpl. Alexander Martinez, radar technician, supporting Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314.

"For somebody big to come out and say, 'Hey, you're doing a good job,' definitely improves morale. It's really nice to hear that what we're doing matters," said Martinez,

said the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 Marine, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

"Give us the supplies, and we'll finish the job," Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris Faddis, aviation boatswain's mate said, quoting Winston Churchill. "And I don't see any difference here, sir. We'll just keep on keeping on. That's all we can do. People back home are counting on us. I find it an honor to be supporting this effort and to have the World Trade Center flag here, like a symbol that America can't be kept down. I'm kind of a history buff, and to be a part of this new history, it means a lot," Faddis added.

"You are all really special. There's no place in my life I'd rather be," said General Franks.

"On September 11, the United States of America was attacked in a ruthless way and every one of you grew up just like I did...but one thing that was absolutely true when I was a kid growing up is that if you are an American, you can do anything that you were man or woman enough to want to do. That's the hallmark. That's what America is all about," Franks said.



General Tommy R. Franks, Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, visited the crew on board the USS John C. Stennis Christmas Day. U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Alta I. Cutler.

Ad space

Lead like you want to be led

By Sgt. Mike Camacho

Commentary

Marines are well known for their leadership qualities. From private to general, leadership is one of the reasons Marines are known as a cut above. But what makes a Marine a good leader? Is it how neatly pressed they have their cammies, or the shine in their boots? Could it be that they never seem to need a haircut? No, wait, it would have to be the fact that they can run a perfect score on their physical fitness test.

While all of those elements will describe an outstanding Marine, do they describe an outstanding leader?

A Marine's physical appearance or ability has nothing to do with their leadership aptitude. But isn't an outstanding Marine also an outstanding leader? He should be.

Some Marines may look up to their leaders – because they stand up for their troops and take care all of their wants and needs. This shouldn't be the main reason for admiration.

Since recruit training, Marines have been told that the way of life in the Marine Corps is mission first, then troop welfare.

So, then, is the ideal leader a slave driver who only cares about finishing the job? No.



These chevrons are worn by enlisted noncommissioned officers in the Marine Corps.

Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho

I believe that a great leader knows how to accomplish the mission, while making sure his troops are taken care of. There is a certain degree of leadership that requires standing up for the troops. At the same time, it is necessary to keep a boss and subordinate type relationship.

The meat and potatoes of Marine Corps leadership seems to be making sure the two underlying objectives are met – mission and troop welfare.

My ideal leader is someone who upholds the rules and regulations faithfully and consistently. I wouldn't want to work for anyone with the "do as I say, not as I do" mentality.

Respect is a foundation that should not change because of rank, gender, race or religion. It's important that the private first class willfully obeys the corporal, but the private first class shouldn't obey in

fear. Although, it should be known that there are consequences for all actions.

A great leader doesn't boast about being the leader and should never have to literally say, "I'm in charge" or "I out rank you."

Communication is a lead factor in the ability to accomplish the mission. If everyone knows what is expected, then there is no doubt in anybody's mind what needs to be done.

Motivation is a tool that good leaders use to stimulate the working spirit of the troops. One way this can be done is by instilling pride in the troops, because Marines should be proud of what they do and where they work. Leaders need to know their Marines. It is imperative that a sergeant knows when his corporal is looking depressed – sometimes it may be more serious than it looks. Instilling trust in troops is a very hard task to accomplish.

However, if it's done right, I believe there is nothing a Marine won't do for that leader. It means a lot to a junior Marine to know that he can trust his superior to help in times of difficulty.

The bottom line here is pay attention to your Marines; it may just provide a more proficient work environment ... which leads to mission accomplishment.

Safety at home is as important as away

By Rear Admiral Stephen A. Turcotte

Commander Naval Safety Center

Following the tragic events of Sept. 11, President Bush cautioned Americans retribution would not be without risk. Families listened, knowing their sons and daughters, husbands and wives in the military would be in harms way.

Little did they know that the cities and towns where they live would prove to be far more dangerous to their loved ones than some mountainous country far away.

Since Sept. 11, 23 Sailors and 13 Marines have died in private motor vehicle crashes.

That's way more than a lot, and nothing short of too many. And as bad as it sounds, the rate has been accelerating. Since Dec. 21, the beginning of the

Christmas holidays, through Jan. 7 – a period of just two and a half weeks – 10 Sailors and three Marines died in PMV crashes.

Something is wrong, terribly wrong. Leisure time crashes are killing far more of our highly trained and disciplined military than actual combat. It is not enemy forces that threaten us, but our own failure to practice effective risk management.

The unnecessary deaths of Sailors and Marines is the result.

Details are still sketchy, but what we know is not surprising – the majority of the crashes occurred late at night, with fatigue the likely common thread, while alcohol use is suspected in some.

Traffic victims are young. Eleven of the 13 holiday fatalities were between 19 and 23 years of age. Speed was reported in at least two crashes with both drivers

dying while drag racing.

Two more drivers were ejected from their vehicles.

While not yet investigated, it is likely seat belts were not used.

A pedestrian died when he decided to cross the street in the middle of the block rather than a crosswalk.

These statistics and stories are troubling. The Navy and Marine Corps have taken great strides to make risk management a way of life, on and off-duty.

It is evident the work is far from complete.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the single largest killer of Navy and Marine Corps personnel. Many of the mishaps cited, read the same – "exceeding the speed limit, loss of control, not buckling up and drinking and driving."

The failure to manage risk is the forgotten element.

Effective risk management starts at the top and must permeate the chain of command. Commanders and leaders at every level must intervene and set the tone for safety.

Skippers, you and your senior leadership all have an important role to play. Set uncompromising standards. Be a mentor. Make a difference. Be a leader. Lead.

Everyone likes to have fun and party. Make a plan that will keep you alive for the next one.

We must all, always observe rules and regulations including traffic laws.

Slow down, buckle up, don't drink and drive, survive.

Lean forward, be safe and have fun.

Editor's note: See related story on page 2. Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing speaks to MAG-11 in a 'Back in the Saddle' brief.

Mir Remarks

What is your New Year's resolution?



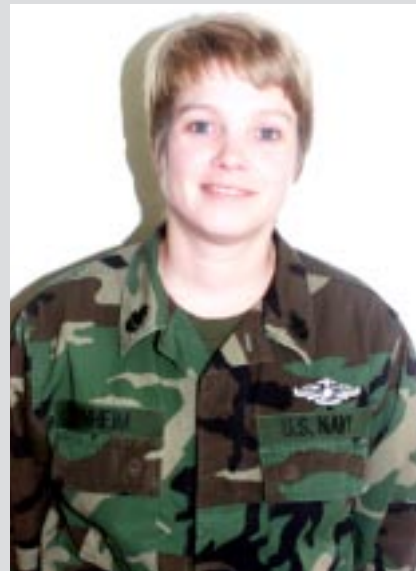
"Appreciate our freedoms as a country after Sept. 11 and be more cautious."

*Lance Cpl. T.J. Medrano
administrative clerk
MAG-11*



"Save more money, plan ahead for my future, make sure not to park in the red and not waste anything like time or money."

*Lance Cpl. Gary J. Stamper
administrative clerk
MAG-11*



"To continue to be successful and for my Sailors to be successful."

*Senior Chief Petty Officer Tonya Winheim
senior enlisted leader
13th Dental Co.*

Ad space

Smoke gets new CO



Lt. Col. John P. Crook

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lieutenant Col. John P. Crook took command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 134 from Lt. Col. Rex C. McMillian in a change of command ceremony at Hangar 1, Saturday.

Crook graduated from Utah State University, and earned his commission in June 1981. During his training at The Basic School, Crook earned the Iron Mike award for physical fitness. In February 1982 he reported to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., for flight training. After completing flight school, he was designated a Naval Aviator in July 1983. Crook completed F-4 training with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101. In November 1985 he reported to MCAS Beaufort, S.C., to serve as the assistant S-4 officer, quality assurance officer and assistant operations officer of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 333. During his tour with VMFA-333, Crook deployed to the Western Pacific for six months.

In March 1987 Crook was selected for transition training for the F/A-18 and re-



Lt. Col. Rex C. McMillian

mained with VMFA-333 for another WestPac deployment. Following a three-year tour with the Navy, Crook returned to Beaufort to join Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251. He served as the squadron's assistant operations officer and as the operations officer during deployments to the Western Pacific and to Aviano Air Base, Italy to support Operation Deny Flight.

In June 1994 Crook attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

After graduating, Crook joined Marine Aircraft Group 41 in Dallas, where he eventually served as the operations officer. In June of 1997 Crook resigned his regular commission and joined the Marine Corps Reserve at MAG-41, serving as the executive officer.

His personal decorations include the Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, fourth award, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Crook has logged more than 3,700 flight hours and 21 carrier-arrested landings.

Crook is also employed as an A320 pilot for a major commercial airline

Com Squadron gunny forges above and beyond call of duty

By Cpl. Kristoper S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

A Marine Wing Communications Squadron 38 gunnery sergeant is being awarded the coveted Copernicus Award for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Gunnery Sgt. Bernard C. Ayran, technical control chief, came highly recommended for the award, which is given to service members in the communications field for their individual contributions to Naval warfare.

"Gunnery Sgt. Bernard C. Ayran's exceptional innovation and superior technical proficiency have catapulted the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing into the forefront of the digital battlefield," said Lt. Col. Rodney H. Taplin, commanding officer, MWCS-38, during Ayran's nomination.

According to Ayran, unlike other branches of the military the Marine Corps doesn't receive brand new, top of the line equipment very often, so he has to work with what he's got.

"Despite being seriously handicapped by outdated, organic communications assets, his creative utilization of this equipment, combined with the strategic emplacement of emerging technologies, not only accom-

plishes the mission, it leaves other services envious," said Taplin.

Ensuring all lines of communication are up and running for more than 15 major exercises per year – including Ulchi Focus Lens, a joint service exercise, and MEFEX – is no small task.

"It takes a lot of responsibility, hard work and dedication," said Ayran. "A lot of people think that (communications Marines) go out in the field, set the plan on paper, and have no problems getting things up and running. In reality it takes about three to four months of planning for each exercise."

Ayran admits he had never heard of the Copernicus Award prior to his nomination, but he is very grateful and appreciative for the recognition. Ayran is proud of the hard work he puts in, but he is also very conscious of the tremendous job his subordinates do every day.

"I would like to thank, first of all, my officer-in-charge for putting me in for the award and also the Marines under me," said Ayran.

A luncheon ceremony will be held Tuesday, at the San Diego Convention Center, where Ayran will be presented with his award.

Marines log on to find pay via the Internet

By Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Pay and personnel information at the touch of your fingertips? It's not some futuristic administrative function. It's today's Employee/Member Self Service.

Marine administrative message 172-00 announced an administrative initiative for both civilian and military Department of Defense personnel. The E/MSS system, which is an administrative/financial systems application, is a Web-based, paperless initiative that allows Marines access to current pay and personnel information, and to make selected changes to their pay and personal accounts using the Internet which became effective March 28, 2000.

The goal of E/MSS is to provide users greater access and control over their pay and personal accounts, according to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Boyd K. Jeffries, administrative officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. Individual active-duty and reserve Marines can update their pay and personal accounts in the Marine Corps Total Force System.

"With the age of information on top of us, this makes it so that everyone can, with the touch of a finger, manage their own records," said Jeffries. "This is the beginning – ultimately Marines will be administrators of their own pay and personal records."

The E/MSS system saves time by providing an alternative to having to complete new forms. This advantage reduces the chances for errors, and updates pay and personnel records as fast or faster than processing the changes through the finance/disbursing and administrative offices, according to Cpl. Arturo Alvarado Jr., administrative clerk, H&HS.

"E/MSS saves Marines time – they don't have to wait on admin," said Alvarado. "It's a matter of timeliness."

Changes take effect based upon record-upload and extraction-processing dates, according to Jeffries. The changes made in the E/MSS are received by the administration offices for review to help create a system of checks and balances, according to Cpl. Norma A. Sequeira, administrative clerk, H&HS.

"We can only keep records as accurate as the Marine tells us," said Jeffries. "Who

knows better than the Marines themselves what is wrong or missing from their records?"

Marines will be able to change federal tax exemptions and additional tax amounts, start or change direct deposit accounts, start and stop savings allotments, or change the amount of existing savings and dependent allotments, according to Alvarado. Additionally, Marines will be able to change their home address and print out copies of current and past leave and earning statements, according to Sequeira.

"You have to sign paperwork and forms for admin, but not for E/MSS," said Sequeira.

"Marines can request an LES online and print it out," said Alvarado.

"This stops the hard copy printout that comes to admin, but they can still go online anytime they want and get copies of their LES," said Sequeira.

The E/MSS and Interactive Voice Response System are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with the exception of short periods for systems maintenance. The Internet site for the E/MSS is <http://www.dfas.mil/emss>. The toll-free telephone number for the IVRS is 1-877-363-3677.

"Why take time out of your day and work around admin's schedule when you can get online whenever you want and take care of it yourself?" asked Jeffries. "E/MSS puts you in the driver's seat."

"Shift workers have to schedule time with admin where as E/MSS is more convenient for them," said Sequeira. "It's convenient for Marines and admin because it allows admin to focus on major pay issues and Marines can take care of their needs when they want to – not on admin's schedule."

"The advantage of E/MSS is it is available 24 hours, seven days a week as opposed to 0730-1630 Monday through Friday like admin," said Alvarado.

A Personal Identification Number is required to gain access to E/MSS via the Internet or the IVRS. To obtain a new PIN for E/MSS or IVRS or any other PIN-related questions call 1-800-390-2348 from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. Each member will only receive one PIN that can be used in both the E/MSS and IVRS.

"Marines need to get a PIN to have

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Ad space

Miramar pictures 2001 – tragedy, celebration



Wearing personal protective equipment, including scuba-like gear, three ARFF Marines extinguish a training fire, April 5, near the flight line here. The fire is so intense that it can reach temperatures hotter than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. *Photo by Sgt. Mike Camacho*



More than 240 Marines and Sailors unfurl a 100-yard-long flag at the Padres' home opener April 10. *Photo by Staff Sgt. John C. DiDomenico*



An F/A-18 Hornet from VMFA-323 bound for the hostile skies over Iraq for Operation Southern Watch, awaits the signal to launch off the *USS Constellation* May 3. *Photo by 1st. Lt. Joshua G. Rushing*

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

One date in 2001 may stand out in history forever, but Miramar Marines showed their true colors throughout the entire year. Station and Wing Marines maintained a high operational tempo throughout the year, earning awards and proving the Marine Corps remains a force in readiness.

As Marines entered their fourth year on Miramar, Air Station firefighters answered a call for help and assisted the San Diego Fire Department in a large brush fire in southern San Diego. More than 2,000 total firefighters from around the area fought the Alpine blaze.

The nation welcomed its new president, George W. Bush, and the Marine Corps saw a new look as it was introduced to its new, digital camouflage uniforms.

A Miramar color guard and bugler helped Santee's Santana High School mourn its loss in a ceremony after a student opened fire on his classmates, killing two and injuring 13 others.

In March, Marine Aircraft Group 11 deployed the largest number of Marines since the Gulf War. Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 soared the skies of Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch and proved the Group can rapidly deploy to "every clime and place."

At home, California was hit with an energy crisis and rolling blackouts. Some were stuck in the dark as California residents were asked to conserve energy. Miramar also did its part, setting up a four-



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey G. Herrera, team leader, 3rd Low-Altitude Air Defense, patrols through Area 25 Combat Town on Camp Pendleton as part of Desert Scorpion, a biannual exercise. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*



Sergeant William J. Bowden, electrician, MTACS-38, was one of more than 400 Marines from 3rd MAW who departed for the desert in June participating in Roving Sands '01, a combined, joint exercise dedicated to air and missile defense capabilities. *Photo by Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig*



Students from Hilltop High School perform a Florico Ballet, a Spanish dance, to a crowd at the Multi-Cultural Heritage Day Celebration aboard Miramar May 8. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington

tiered plan to dramatically cut electricity use.

Miramar extended a welcoming hand, hosting more than 1,000 visitors on bi-monthly tours and more than 720 educators from west of the Mississippi River as part of the Educator Workshop Program.

Provost Marshal's Office K-9 section, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighters, and various squadrons along the flight line were instrumental in the tours' success throughout the year.

Marines and Sailors participated in multiple events outside the gates, such as the Padres opening game and the military appreciation Chargers preseason game, unfurling a 100-yard-long flag and demonstrating that the community does not stop at the Station's gates.

Acting as guest speakers for a variety of local functions and organizations, Miramar Marines truly exemplified the "hands across the fences" approach.

In August, Marine Forces Pacific welcomed a new commanding general. Lieutenant Gen. Earl B. Hailston took command, leaving the III Marine

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Fernando and Adriana Rodrigues release two doves during a ceremony Sept. 22, honoring the people who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Nearly 100 Marines and Sailors from Miramar gathered at the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Balboa Park for the ceremony. Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington



Provost Marshal's Office Marines inspect vehicles coming onto the Air Station through the East Gate following the days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. This was a common site on all American military installations around the world. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.



Corporal Brian E. Knotts, airframes mechanic, HMM-161, hugs his wife, Tammy, for the first time in six months, Feb. 13. They were married prior to the unit's Western Pacific deployment with the Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

Homage paid to WWII Ace “Pappy” Boyington

By Cpl. Kristoper S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

World War II, a trying time for the nation, even more so for the tens of thousands of service members who traveled overseas to defend the people of the United States from the hell-bent opposition of the Japanese government. From the many blistering battles that took place on ground, in the sea and air, many heroes were born. Every hero has a story, as unique as the next.

Over 50 years ago, a young Marine Corps officer earned a place in the ranks of those distinguished heroes who were awarded the Medal of Honor: his name, Gregory Boyington.

Born Dec. 4, 1912, Boyington didn't have it easy starting out. His parents were divorced and his stepfather was an alcoholic. Boyington's family never stayed in one place for very long, continuously moving from state to state.

At the age of six, in what proved to be a glimpse into his future, Boyington wormed his way into the back seat of a prop-plane, piloted by the famous barnstormer Clyde Pangborn. An experience which Boyington would never forget.

In 1926, his family once again packed its things and moved, this time to Tacoma, Wash. There he attended high school and in 1930 he enrolled into the University of Washington, where he earned his degree.

Little more than a year after graduating college, Boyington joined the Marine Corps and in 1937 earned his wings.

By 1941, his career was falling apart and marital problems, alcoholism and debt were getting the best of him. He received an offer from the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company to become a part of the U.S.

government-approved American Volunteer Group. The money was substantially greater than what he was earning in the Corps and he was in desperate need. Boyington accepted the offer to pilot a fighter plane in support of China against the Japanese. He promptly resigned from the Corps with the understanding that he can always return to active duty.

As an AVG pilot, Boyington flew many missions, during these missions he shot down a total of six Japanese aircraft, making him one of the first American “aces” of World War II.

Less than a year after signing with CAMC, Boyington quit AVG and returned to the U.S.

Shortly thereafter he was reappointed to the Marine Corps as a major.

During his reappointment, Boyington did a short tour with Marine Aircraft Group 11 and Marine Fighter Squadron 122 before being assigned to form an ad hoc squadron from available service members and aircraft. The squadron of 26 originally formed the rear echelon of VMF-124 before it was redesignated VMF-214 “Black Sheep.”

September 1943, with Boyington as the commanding officer of the squadron, the Black Sheep flew their first combat mission.

From that point until January 1944, just 84 days, Boyington and his Black Sheep earned fame by destroying or damaging a record 197 enemy aircraft.

Boyington claimed 22 himself.

But it was that 22nd kill, 28th total, where he was shot down by a Japanese Zero fighter and taken prisoner.

He spent the next 20 months of his life in Japanese prisoner of war camps.

“Well, it was hard,” said Boyington in an interview with Aviation History Magazine. “We were beaten on occasion, and questioned even about the most ridiculous (things). Most of the guards were pretty brutal, but once you learned how to out think them you could get by.”

August 28, 1945, Boyington's camp was liberated and he was finally able to return home, where he received the Medal of Honor.

In the immortal words of Pappy Boyington, “If this story were to have a moral, then I would say, ‘Just name a hero and I'll prove he's a bum.’”

Boyington died Jan. 11, 1988. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Va.



Major Gregory Boyington received the Medal of Honor in 1945. During World War II, Boyington, one of the first aces of the war, shot down 28 enemy aircraft and survived 20 months as a prisoner of war. Boyington soared the skies at age six with the famous barnstormer Clyde Pangborn . *Courtesy photo*

Ad space

Getting back to business

By Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Picture Thanksgiving dinner, a juicy turkey, Christmas, a succulent ham, New Years, a couple bottles of anything, not to mention all of the tasty

sides that accompany. Indulging in fine cuisine and even a few cocktails is a staple of the holiday season, and now that it's added 10 inches to the old gut and taken 15 minutes off that fabulous run time, 'tis the season' to get back in shape. After a break in the physical training

routine most service members are accustomed to, easing back into the program is the safest and most productive way to shape up. According to Frank Colletti, general manager at a local fitness center, in coming back from the holidays, as far as getting back into shape is concerned, people should take it slow, ease back into it. Jumping right back into things can lead to injury. He strongly suggests going to the gym and employing the help of a personal trainer. The fitness centers aboard Miramar offer assistance seven days a week to help service members get into shape. Personal trainers are on hand at both the Barn and the Main Gymnasium, to assist with

individual exercise programs. Also available are a number of classes, from aerobics to abdominal to cardio-kickboxing, offering beginner to intermediate levels. Every Marine knows how important physical fitness is to mission accomplishment, but keep in mind safety is just as important.

For more information on programs offered by Semper Fit call the Main Gym at 577-4128 or visit the Marine Corps Community Web site at www.mccsmiramar.com.



Corporal Zachary Ritter, ordnance technician, VMFA-121, pumps up on the iso-lateral, high-row machine at the Main Gym Wednesday. It is advised that Marines, coming back from the holidays, take getting back in shape slow. Photo by Cpl. Kristopher Haloj

Attention Softball Players



Photo by Cpl. Kristopher Haloj

All players interested in participating in varsity slow pitch softball. There will be an informational meeting on Feb. 15 at 11:30 a.m. in the Main Gym conference room. For more information, call 577-1202.

Ad space

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This week at the downtown USO

Tonight – free open billiards starting at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday – Enjoy popcorn and a movie.

Sunday – Fresh pastries and coffee served at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday- Join the USO for delicious casserole served at 6 p.m.

Thursday- free snacks will be available from 5:30 p.m. until close.

Assistant Tackle Football Coaches Needed

There is a meeting scheduled for Feb. 1 at 11:30 a.m.

It will be held in the main gym’s conference room.

Currently, the team is participating in the Camp Pendleton football league.

For more information call 577-1202.

Dance group Fusion Force to appear on Station

The hip hop dance group Fusion Force is scheduled to perform on Miramar Jan. 26 at 10 p.m. at the Area 51 Enlisted Club.

For more information, call 577-7968

Marine thanks good samaritan

On the evening of Dec. 20, while on a quick outing, Milo (my miniture pincher) jumped out of my van and ran away.

I searched the area for him, then called the military police to let them know Milo was missing...in case someone found him.

After an hour or so of searching, my cell phone rang. Milo was waiting at the North Gate. According to the Marines at the Gate, a lady who didn’t leave a name, dropped Milo off with them.

I want to thank the lady who rescued Milo and turned him over to the MPs. I have three young boys who would have been very upset that Milo was lost and away from the family for Christmas.

During the hussle and bussle of the holidays, a kind person took the time to do a great deed in helping reunite a 4 year old boy and his dog for the holiday. Again, thank you for helping us get Milo back home.

Staff Sgt Iris Hedrick, Anthony, Daniel, and Justin

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was amazing and extremely motivating. Although they always give great support, the crowd seemed just a little more supportive this year than in years past. There were flags waving and people sang the words of ‘God Bless America’ and ‘This is My Country’ as we played on the march.”

The rest of the parade, themed “Good Times,” featured 53 floats, 27 equestrian units and 24 marching bands. The parade’s patriotism stretched far beyond the military-oriented beginning. The parade-goers waved tiny American flags at the equestrians, most of whom wore red, white and blue for the occasion.

Cameras went wild as intricately decorated floats glided past with themes such as, “Fun on the 4th (of July),” “America – Let’s Celebrate” and “Land of the Free – Home of the Brave.” Nearly every musical unit, high school, college or professional, personified the nation by stepping forward together and boasting proud posture while playing “America the Beautiful,” or “God Bless America.”

Free movies from MCCS

Today

Black Hawk Down (R) 6:30 p.m.
Behind Enemy Lines (PG-13) 9:15 p.m.

Wednesday

The Wash (R) 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 2 p.m.
Spy Game (R) 6:30 p.m.

Saturday

Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 8:30 p.m.

Sunday

Monsters, Inc. The One (G) 1 p.m.
(PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

The Station theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby Digital Surround Sound. All movies are free for DoD ID card holders and their guests. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

Free movie sneak preview tonight

Black Hawk Down

MCCS presents a free sneak preview tonight at 6:30 at the Miramar Station Theater. Tickets are not required, however, seating is limited. Arrive early for the best seats. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. This movie has been rated ‘R’ by the Motion Picture Association of America. This film includes graphic combat violence and mature themes.



Ad space



Anybody in there?

Lance Cpl. Robert Dmochowski, motor transportation operator, (left) and Cpl. Vana Chanhkhiao, motor transport line noncommissioned officer, (right)

Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, check a “water buffalo” for signs of dirt contamination in the rubber seal. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

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access and more control over their records,” said Sequeira.

The system will require the temporary PIN to be changed upon initial access to the E/MSS or IVRS and must be done within 120 days from the date of receipt of the temporary PIN. Upon initial access to the system, members will be asked to provide certain information to validate their identity prior to issuance of a permanent PIN.

While both the E/MSS and IVRS include secure connections for the transmission of data, Marines who use the IVRS are cautioned against the use of cellular and cordless phones as personal data may be compromised.

Marines may continue to make changes to their pay and personal accounts by completing the required forms and submitting them to their administrative office. Using the E/MSS is not mandatory, but is highly encouraged.

“We need Marines to try these programs and help us monitor their records,” said Jeffries.

Because E/MSS gives Marines instant access to their LES, allotment and direct

deposit information, and payday amounts, it is to the Marine’s advantage to learn to use E/MSS, said both Sequeira and Alvarado.

For more information on the E/MSS refer to MARADMINs 172/00, 384/00, 444/00, 491/00 and 586/00.

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Expeditionary Unit on Okinawa.

Entering the fall season, terrorists attacked our nation on Sept. 11. This date will more than likely be forever etched into history, as if the date itself is now used as a proper noun.

Miramar and military instillations worldwide took immediate security measures.

As Miramar personnel were faced with a lengthy wait to get on Station due to vehicle inspections and 100 percent identification checks. The Provost Marshal’s Office called up two Security Augmentation Force platoons from various units on Station. Units from 3rd MAW provided a number of augments on Station and immediately deployed personnel in support of the operation now formally

named Enduring Freedom.

“While there is no doubt that the events of Sept. 11, 2001, will long stand out in all our minds for its horror, I will personally remember last year for the many uncommon performances of the Marines, Sailors and families in 3rd MAW,” said Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr. “Whether achieving an unprecedented record of aviation safety with no Class A or B accidents, realizing significant decreases in ground accidents or responding to the call for combat operations in Operation Southern Watch and Operation Enduring Freedom, members of the 3rd MAW team demonstrated that operational excellence does result when focus is put on taking care of Marines and families and employing sound practices of operational risk management.”

Despite current events, daily operations still go on.

The Miramar Jaguars entered the playoffs with an 11-1 record in the Camp Pendleton Tackle Football League. The Jaguars squeaked past Transportation Support Battalion 13-10 in the championship game.

Over the holiday season deployed service members received holiday mes-

sages and greetings from across America.

As 2002 was ushered in, the nation stands vigilant as U.S. Armed Forces remain involved in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Miramar can look forward to the New Year with pride.

“2001 was a very rewarding year for me personally and I owe that to every Marine, Sailor, and spouse who stepped up to the challenge of making 3rd MAW the best Wing in our Corps in every respect,” said Maj. Gen. Bolden.

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Operation Enduring Freedom.

The KC-130 is a versatile, multi-mission aircraft that provides in-flight refueling to both tactical fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. It is also used for troop and cargo delivery, evacuation missions and special operations support.

Its crew consists of two pilots, a navigator, a flight engineer, a mechanic and a loadmaster.

The cause of the incident is currently under investigation.

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